

## Message Text

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16

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 SAB-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04

OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-10

IO-10 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SS-15 SAJ-01 /132 W

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R 271631Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1291

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 3643

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CS

SUBJECT: ODUBER'S COMMENTS ON HIS FOREIGN POLICY

REF: SAN JOSE 3609

SAN JOSE 3514

1. IN THE LAST OF A 5-PART INTERVIEW WITH DANIEL ODUBER (AUGUST 22-26) PUBLISHED IN "LA NACION," THE PRESIDENT COMMENTED ON HIS RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA, CENTRAL AMERICA, THE U.S. AND EUROPE.

2. IN THE LATIN AMERICAN SPHERE, ODUBER DESCRIBED  
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HIMSELF AS "PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE" IN THE

RELATION BETWEEN PANAMA AND THE U.S., PARTICIPATING AS "A FRIEND OF BOTH SIDES" TO HELP AVOID ANY CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS OVER THE PANAMA CANAL ISSUE. HE REITERATED THAT COSTA RICA'S DECISION ABOUT THE BANANA COMPANIES WOULD BE DIFFERENT FROM PANAMA'S. (SEE SAN JOSE 3609.) IN DISCUSSING THE FUTURE OF CENTRAL AMERICAN RELATIONS, HE EXPLAINED THE PROPOSED NEW TREATY FOR A CENTRAL AMERICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY WAS REJECTED BECAUSE "CENTRAL AMERICAN AFFAIRS SHOULD BE MORE SIMPLE, MORE POLITICAL, AND LESS TECHNICAL...WITH MORE FLEXIBLE INSTRUMENTS." HE STATED THAT PRESIDENT LOPEZ MICHELSEN OF COLOMBIA WOULD BE VISITING COSTA RICA SOON AND STRESSED HIS CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRESIDENTS OF VENEZUELA AND MEXICO.

3. IN DISCUSSING CUBA SPECIFICALLY HE ANNOUNCED THAT A CUBA TRADE DELEGATION WILL BE ARRIVING IN COSTA RICA ON SEPTEMBER 8. HOWEVER, HE EMPHASIZED AGAIN (SAN JOSE 3514) THAT HE WOULD "GO SLOW" ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA BECAUSE HE BELIEVED THAT THE NATION WANTED HIM TO BE "VERY CAREFUL" ON THAT ISSUE.

4. ODUBER DESCRIBES RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AS "EXCELLENT" SAYING "IN WASHINGTON THEY RESPECT US, THEY LIKE US, THEY HELP US...THEY UNDERSTAND MY POSITION...THAT SOMETIMES CAUSES ME TO BE IN CONFLICT WITH U.S. INTERESTS." HE ADDED "THE U.S. CAN COUNT ON THIS GOVERNMENT AND THIS COUNTRY IN ITS GREAT WORLDWIDE STRUGGLES."

5. FINALLY, HE REVIEWED HIS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LEADERS OF EUROPE AND STATED THAT SWEDEN WANTS TO HELP COSTA RICA FINANCE A HYDROELECTRIC COMPLEX.  
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